

July 27, 1999

## **MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance City Council convened in a regular session at 6:05 p.m. on Tuesday, July 27, 1999, with all members present except Councilmember Horwich, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Assembly Room for a Council Workshop with 4<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor Don Knabe.

The Torrance City Council recessed at 7:00 p.m. and reconvened in a regular session at 7:10 p.m. on Tuesday, July 27, 1999, in the City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers Cribbs, Lee, Messerlian, O'Donnell, Walker, and Mayor Hardison.

Absent: Councilmember Horwich.

Also Present: City Manager Jackson, Assistant City Attorney Pohl, City Clerk Herbers, and other staff representatives.

### **2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION**

Mr. Robert Paulson, TRW Torrance Business Representative to the Private Industry Council, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk Herbers gave the invocation for the meeting.

Mayor Hardison requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Mark Erickson, former custodian for the City from 1981 through 1991.

### **3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/WAIVE FURTHER READING**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Lee moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison, absent Councilmember Horwich.

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order.

Councilmember Cribbs seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison, absent Councilmember Horwich.

4. **WITHDRAWN/DEFERRED ITEMS**

None.

5. **COUNCIL MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Citizen Development & Enrichment Committee  
Joint Meeting with Torrance Unified School District  
Tuesday, August 3, 1999, 5:00 p.m.  
TUSD District Office Conference Room  
2335 Plaza del Amo  
Subject: Joint Projects

6. **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

6a. **STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS**

Fourth District Supervisor Don Knabe presented the State of the County Address and was accompanied by the South Bay Deputy Tom Martin. Supervisor Knabe commented that the County recently adopted its \$15 billion budget and further emphasized healthcare as a major issue along with welfare reform.

Mayor Hardison expressed sincere appreciation on behalf of the City Council for Supervisor Knabe's time and efforts.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

7a. **RECOMMENDATION RE PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Policy Board that City Council appoint and officially swear in Audra Nelsas, Gene Cox and Robert Paulson to the Carson/Lomita/Torrance Private Industry Council (C/L/T PIC).

**MOTION:** Councilmember Cribbs moved for a unanimous ballot on the appointment of Audra Nelsas, Gene Cox and Robert Paulson. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote, absent Councilmember Horwich.

(Item removed from Consent Calendar considered separately) City Clerk Herbers administered the oath of office to newly appointed C/L/T PIC members Gene Cox and Robert Paulson.

7b. **RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE FINAL PARCEL MAP 25187**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council approve the Final Parcel Map No. 25187 located at 1902 237<sup>th</sup> Street, which substantially conforms to and has met all conditions of approval of the Tentative Map.

7c. **RECOMMENDATION RE CONTRACT FOR LARGE METER TESTING**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council:

- 1) Accept the proposal submitted by Wheeler meter Maintenance for large meter testing and repair program for fiscal 1999-2000 and award a contract to this firm in the amount of \$58,560.
- 2) Reject all other proposals.
- 3) Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute and attest said contract.

7d. **INVESTMENT REPORT FOR JUNE 1999**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Treasurer that City Council accept and file the investment report for the month of June 1999.

7e. **AUTHORIZATION RE WEST COAST ARBORISTS, INC.**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Street Services Director that City Council authorize a change order to Purchase order No. 74793 with West Coast Arborists, Inc. for a one-year extension with a cost not to exceed \$100,000 for tree removal and planting citywide.

**MOTION:** Councilmember O'Donnell moved for the approval of Consent Calendar items b through e as written. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote, absent Councilmember Horwich.

8. **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

8a. **RECOMMENDATION RE MADRONA MARSH NATURE CENTER**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Director that City Council approve the Contract Service Agreement between the City of Torrance and Promotion Products, Inc. for the development of exhibits for the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Lee moved to approve the Contract Service Agreement with Promotion Products, Inc. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote, absent Councilmember Horwich.

9. **PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

9a. **RECOMMENDATION RE RESOLUTION NO. 99-94**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council approve and adopt a Resolution declaring its intention to vacate the street easements for a portion of Torrance Boulevard/Border Avenue, a portion of 212<sup>th</sup> Street, and a portion of the alley east of Torrance Boulevard/Border Avenue and south of 212<sup>th</sup> Street and setting August 17, 1999 for the Public Hearing.

**RESOLUTION NO. 99-94**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO VACATE A PORTION OF TORRANCE BOUENVARD/BORDER AVENUE, A PORTION OF 212<sup>TH</sup> STREET, AND A PORTION OF THE ALLEY EAST OF TORRANCE BOUENVARD/BORDER AVENUE AND SOUTH OF 212<sup>TH</sup> STREET IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND SETTING THE DATE OF AUGUST 17, 1999 FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-94. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote, absent Councilmember Horwich.

9b. **REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997-98**

Considered out of order. See below.

10. **PUBLIC SAFETY**

10a. **TRANSIT ROUTE RESTRUCTURING, PHASE 1 IMPLEMENTATION**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council approve the following elements of the Torrance Transit Route Restructuring Program:

- 1) Implement Phase 1 (Line 1) of the Route Restructuring Program as proposed. Curtail off-peak and weekend Line 1 line haul service to downtown Los Angeles at the Harbor Transitway Station. The proposed schedule is included in Attachment A;
- 2) Utilize the operating cost savings from the above service curtailment to significantly improve Line 1 service within the City of Torrance and between Torrance and the Harbor Transitway Station along its current route, serving Harbor UCLA General Hospital and the Artesia Transit Center; and
- 3) Initiate Phase 1 (Line 1) of the route Restructuring Program on October 10, 1999 to coincide with the Transit Department fall bid for work assignments and to give the public adequate notice of the changes that will take place.

In response to Mayor Hardison's and Councilmember Messerlian's inquiry, Transit Director Whittle related that Line 1 service would be increased to 30-minute intervals during the morning and afternoon peak periods.

Ms. Francis Johnson, a Torrance resident, expressed a concern for commuters who would be affected by the removal of the 9:00 p.m. bus from downtown Los Angeles to Torrance.

Mr. Dana Gabbard, President of the Southern California Transit Advocates, read a prepared statement to the Council advocating options without impacting users citing the long gap between the 7:30 p.m. and 9:55 p.m. bus.

Mr. Jose Navarette, Labor Relations Manager, Torrance Municipal Employees Union, suggested that a committee consisting of transit employees and members of the community should meet periodically in a genuine attempt to address issues of the community in regard to Torrance Transit.

Ms. Charlotte Long, nurse, commented that the mentally retarded people require assistance with faster, express bus routes.

Mr. Darrius Smith, 18425 Kingsdale, Redondo Beach, commented that if the 6:15 a.m. bus is not available, he cannot get to work in downtown Los Angeles.

Mr. Alan Lee, Torrance Municipal Employee Local 1117 Union, related that these changes would significantly impact Transit employees from \$500 per month on average and up to \$1,500 per month, and further requested that the Council be responsive to the needs of the people.

Ms. Collette Midore requested that a new map be made available if any changes to Line 1 were made.

Transit Director Whittle reminded the community that the lines that are being cut are in direct correlation to the other MTA and Gardena bus lines currently available. He cited the reason for the gap in bus times late in the evening as a request from the community for a bus that travels non-stop from downtown at 9:55 p.m. arriving at 11:10 p.m. at Del Amo.

In response to Mr. Alan Lee's concern for bus driver's overtime, Transit Director Whittle and City Manager Jackson related that overtime is available on several lines for bus drivers to bid upon, and they also have the option of bidding on extra work when other drivers are on vacation or sick leave. Transit Director Whittle related that a list of all connections will be published by October 10, 1999, and made available to the public.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Lee moved to concur with staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember O'Donnell and passed by unanimous roll call vote, absent Councilmember Horwich.

14. **2<sup>nd</sup> READING ORDINANCES**

14a. **SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 3472**

**Recommendation**

Submitted for the second and final reading is Ordinance 3472 amending Division 9 of the Torrance Municipal Code to reclassify certain property located at 3905 to 3939 Emerald Street from ML-C4 (Light Manufacturing/Shopping Center) to R-2 (Two Family Residential District).

The City Clerk further recommends that City Council approve a summary of the ordinance for publication.

**ORDINANCE 3472**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING DIVISION 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO RECLASSIFY CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3905 EMERALD STREET FROM ML-C4 (LIGHT MANUFACTURING/SHOPPING CENTER) TO R-2 (TWO FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT)**

**ZON 99-0002: CITY OF TORRANCE**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Lee moved for the approval of Ordinance 3472 and summary. The motion was seconded by Councilmember O'Donnell and passed by a voice vote, with Councilmember Messerlian abstaining and Councilmember Horwich absent.

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At 8:25 p.m., the Council met as the Torrance Redevelopment Agency. City Council Agenda Item No. 9b was considered out of regular agenda order with Redevelopment Agency Item No. 4a.

9b. **REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997-98**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Redevelopment Agency staff that City Council accept and file the Redevelopment Agency Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1997-98 including the Independent Auditors' Report on Financial Statements and Compliance and file said report without further action.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Lee moved to accept and file the Redevelopment Agency Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1997-99 including the Independent Auditors' Report on Financial Statements and Compliance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Messerlian and passed by unanimous roll call vote, absent Councilmember Horwich.

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15. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

15a. Councilmember O'Donnell praised Maria Cesca who led efforts to adopt the 90 rose bushes at City Hall by recruiting 25 fellow City employees and noted that local resident, Dick Beecher, also assists in maintaining the rose bushes.

15b. Ms. Collette Midore advised people to call 1(800) Commute for information regarding alternative bus routes and schedules.

15c. Mr. George Giannioses voiced his concerns on the elevations of new construction on 235<sup>th</sup> Street/Maple Avenue as they related to privacy and security of his property.

15d. Mayor Hardison noted that no further action could be taken as the matter has already been approved by the City Council and requested Planning Director Jeff Gibson work with the area residents.

15e. Ms. Margaret Graham echoed Mr. Giannioses' concerns.

16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:52 p.m., Council recessed to closed session to consider matters under Item 16, Executive Session. The Council returned to open session at 9:12 p.m., with no formal action taken on any matter heard in closed session.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:12 p.m., City Council and Redevelopment Agency adjourned to Tuesday, August 3, 1999, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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**Adjourned in Memory of**  
**Mark Erickson**  
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Mayor of the City of Torrance

ATTEST:

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City Clerk of the City of Torrance